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## Escargatoire

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## Escargatoire

A walk  
of snails  
has no legs  
yet navigates lavender  
with supple skill.

Spiral  
signature of pilgrims, the path  
they carry is their very  
home.

Moist envy of mystics, they  
wind periphery into core, secrete  
infinity and thwart  
the bird's fierce beak.

Slow and studious  
of each nuanced leaf,  
they are a hood  
when three or more  
convene.

Never  
pausing to ruminate  
upon the full design,  
at first hint of trouble  
they retreat  
into the map.



**SIMON ORPANA** lives and works in Hamilton, Ontario. His articles on film, television, subcultures and biopolitics have appeared in such journals as *Topia* and *English Studies in Canada*. He is coauthor and illustrator of *Showdown! Making Modern Unions*, a graphic history of the role the 1946 Stelco strike played in shaping Canadian labour history (Between the Lines, 2016). He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Alberta, Department of English and Film Studies.